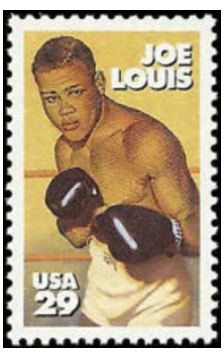
Sorry Mayweather Fans, No USPS Stamp

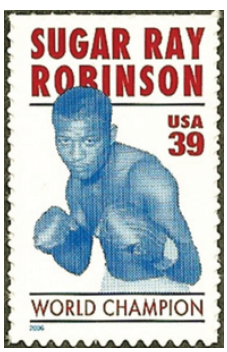
On April 21 the Philippines issued a Manny Pacquiao "Fight of the Century" stamp and souvenir sheet—and now there are reports circulating that Floyd Mayweather fans are seeking equal treatment from the U.S. Postal Service.

The modestly-priced Pacquiao issue—500,000 10 peso singles and 30,000 40p souvenir sheets—were almost completely sold out two days after they went on sale. That comes as no surprise as the citizen of the Philippines is not only a boxing icon, and was described by the Philippine Postal Corporation as a "national pride", but reflecting his popularity, he also had been elected to the Philippines House of Representatives.

Even before the Pacquiao stamps went on sale, news of the honor being bestowed on him by his home country had Floyd Mayweather fans wondering if the United States would reciprocate and issue a stamp for their favorite in the "Fight of the Century," which was scheduled for May 2 in Las Vegas.

The answer is NO





Based on his fight record Floyd Mayweather might eventually be a candidate for a U.S. stamp. With an undefeated record, holder of titles in five weight divisions—including the welterweight class in which the Fight of the Century with Pacquiao will be held—his record and his fame have been compared by many boxing experts to Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson, both of whom have been honored on U.S. stamps—Louis in 1993 and Sugar Ray in 2006. However, Mayweather is found lacking in one respect—he's alive.

There have been a few exceptions, perhaps the most prominent one being the 1969 Man on the Moon stamp showing Neil Armstrong taking his first step onto the surface of the moon, but as a rule a subject has to be deceased before being considered for a stamp. A few years ago the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, which is charged with the task of deciding on what subjects make it to a stamp, announced that they would be willing to consider living Americans on stamps, but subsequent actions indicate that the soonest anyone might appear on a U.S. stamp would be deceased Presidents one year after they died.

So the good news is that Floyd Mayweather is still living and breathing, and thus not eligible for a U.S. postage stamp. Fans looking for a consolation can find these non-stamp labels that were recently offered on ebay from a concern in Australia, but that's about it.

And while Krista Becker, Acting Director of Stamp Development at the U.S. Postal Service stated "I'm not aware of any requests for this stamp subject," reports persist that Mayweather fans are seeking a U.S. stamp. Either the stories floating around are totally inaccurate or, more likely, the requests are being sent to local newspapers. This would be similar to what happened with subjects such as Wilt Chamberlain. For years reports of a stamp for Wilt came out of Philadelphia, but it was only last year that the stamp was announced and issued by the USPS.

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